

Note of decisions taken and actions required

Title: Children and Young People Programme Board
Date and time: 6 September 2011, 11.00am
Venue: Mary Sumner House, Westminster

Attendance

Position	Councillor	Council
Chairman	David Simmonds	Hillingdon LB
Deputy chair	Liz Green	Kingston upon Thames RB
Deputy chair	Apu Bagchi	Bedford BC
Members	David Pugh	Isle of Wight Council
	Baroness Shireen Ritchie	Kensington and Chelsea RB
	Robert Light	Kirklees MBC
	Rita Krishna	Hackney LB
	Catherine Grundy	Birmingham City
	Paul Lakin	Rotherham MBC
	David Belotti	Bath and NE Somerset
	Kath Pinnock	Kirklees MBC
Substitutes	Susie Childs	Lancashire CC
	Catherine McDonald	Southwark LB
	Roy Perry	Hampshire CC
In attendance	Fiona Blacke	NYA
	Miriam Rosen	HMCI
	David Goldup	Ofsted
	Matt Dunkley	ADCS
Apologies	John Merry CBE	Salford City
	Derrick Murphy	Norfolk CC
	Paul Carter	Kent CC
	Anne Burns	Cumbria CC

Officers: Helen Johnston, Ian Keating, Cassandra Harrison, Samantha Ramanah, Craig Titterton, Caroline Bosdet, Lucy Ellender (LG Group)

Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
1	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>Cllr David Simmonds welcomed the new and returning members to the first meeting of the new Board. He suggested that Board members should become more involved in suggesting issues for debate and discussion at meetings and proposed that members themselves should make presentations to the Board, rather than always inviting outside speakers.</p>	
2	<p>Youth Policy and NYA Improvement Support</p> <p>Fiona Blacke, Chief Executive of NYA, attended the meeting to give Members an introduction to their work and discuss the issues currently facing young people. The key issue that Fiona identified was a lack of funding, and the impact that this was having on youth service provision. She also described the NYA's Routes to Success programme, funded by LG Group from a topslice of revenue support grant, which offered tools to local authorities and showed what interventions produced the most effective outcomes.</p> <p>Members discussed the issues on which there could be greater joint working between the LG Group and the NYA, including issues around public transport in both rural and urban areas and social care workforce issues.</p> <p>Members also discussed the riots that had taken place across England in early August and their responses. It was noted that the majority of those involved in the riots had been young adults, so it was important to rebut the media portrayal of the disturbances as a young person's issue.</p>	
	<p>Action</p> <p>Fiona Blacke to be invited to a future meeting to give an update on the NYA's progress.</p>	Lucy Ellender
3	<p>Arrangements for the inspection of Local Authority Children's Services: Ofsted Consultation</p> <p>Miriam Rosen, HMCI and John Goldup, National Director,</p>	

Development and Strategy at Ofsted gave the Members an overview of the new schools inspection consultation, saying that its main focus would be to have a stronger impact on improvement. They felt that the new framework would represent a proportionate system of inspection, which would enable a focus on schools that were judged inadequate or satisfactory or where standards were slipping. Ofsted had undertaken 150 pilots during the summer term to test out the new approach. They would be launching a Parent View website in the Autumn, where parents would be able to express their view on their local schools.

The Consultation on Children's Services inspection would be closing on 27 July. This would build on the strength of the existing inspection framework and take account of the recommendations coming out of the Munro Review. This would mean that inspections would be unannounced; there would be a focus on the Child's journey; and the inspection would look at the contribution of all the agencies involved. Multi-agency inspection was a complicated issue, but all the inspectorates were keen to enable this.

Members raised concerns that the new inspection framework's focus could mean that judgements were made with hindsight rather than based on the facts available at the time decisions were made. John Goldup was keen to say that this would not be the case, rather they would be looking at the reactions of the agencies involved and see what consideration was given to actions when a case first arose.

Members asked how this new framework would provide a link between peer reviews and the new inspections.. Ofsted replied that there would be a potential for considering peer reviews in inspection, however there were key differences between inspections and peer reviews that could make this difficult.

4 What should the Board's focus be for 2011/12?

Cllr David Simmonds introduced this item, telling members he wanted to allow members to have a chance to raise issues that they felt strongly about a take a lead on those issues in the future.

Members identified the key issues as:

- Finance and resourcing.
- Children's health especially children on the autistic spectrum and the role of Health and Wellbeing Boards.
- Transport affecting young people's access to youth

services.

- Education and the future commissioning role of local authorities with academies and free schools.

Members also felt there was a greater need focus on issues around the education bodies financed by the top slice and CIB Governance at future meetings.

Action

Update the programme plan following discussions. Helen Johnston

Members to be provided with a diagram showing the working groups of the Ministerial Advisory Group and how they work with the LG Group. Lucy Ellender

5 Children and Young People Programme Plan 2011/12

The Board discussed how they would work to engage with the regions to promote the work of the LG Group, but also to allow a two-way dialogue with their colleagues in the regions to ensure that their key concerns were known. It was noted that the Children and Young People officers had been assigned a region that they looked after. Members felt that better representation within the regions was essential to showing member councils the value of LGA membership.

Members considered the use of task and finish groups for specific issues.

Decision

*Members **agreed** that further work should be done to strengthen contact between the boards and regional groups of Lead Members for Children's Services.*

Action

Send round Executive paper on Education reform and Schools funding Lucy Ellender

Extend invitation to the regional chairs to attend a future Board meeting Lucy Ellender

6 The Challenges for the next year - ADCS

Matt Dunkley, the President of ADCS, attended the meeting and gave the members and introduction to his priorities for the

coming year and the key issues facing the sector from the ADCS perspective. He talked about the future role of local authorities in education; sector-led improvement; local authority statutory intervention powers; and the Munro Review recommendations on Serious Case Reviews and Health and Wellbeing Boards.

Members asked what role ADCS saw for lead members for Children’s Services and more specifically about how ADCS felt members should be involved in the Children’s Improvement Board and the split between Member’s and officer’s roles.

Matt acknowledged that there had been differences of opinion on this in the past but he agreed that both Members and officers had a responsibility to work closely together to ensure that both political and professional accountability was in place.

Decision

ADCS and the Office Holders of the Children and Young People Programme Board will continue to meet to ensure joined up working.

BOARD BUSINESS AGENDA

Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
1	<p>Finance update</p> <p>Members discussed procurement, saying that a centralised system of procurement for schools would not lead to efficiencies and it was more important to have local solutions to procurement. They also raised the issue of PFI funding.</p> <p>The Chair confirmed that these points would be taken forward to the Task and Finish Group of the Ministerial Advisory Group.</p>	
2	<p>Children’s Improvement Board update</p> <p>Members asked about the governance arrangements in place for the CIB. They were told that Dr Clive Grace had been commissioned to look into the governance issue and the Chair had been interviewed for this report. He had made it clear that the Children and Young People Programme Board saw a strong role for Members in any future governance arrangements. Dr Clive Grace would be interviewing other stakeholders in the CIB before drafting his final report.</p>	

*Members **agreed** to keep this on the agenda for future meetings.*

3 NFER Update

Members noted the update.

Following comments from members Cllr Paul Lakin, the Board's current champion for NFER, informed the group that they were keen to receive ideas from Board members about ideas about future work areas

Action

Members to suggest further ideas for NFER future working. Members

4 Notes of the last meeting: 12 July 2011

Agreed.